Eskilstuna's history dates back to medieval times when English monk Saint Eskil made "Tuna" his base and diocese of the South coast of Lake Mälaren. Saint Eskil was stoned to death by the pagan vikings of neighbouring town Strängnäs, 30 kilometres (19 miles) east of Eskilstuna, trying to convert them to Christianity. Saint Eskil was buried in his monastery church in Tuna. The monastery of Saint Eskil was completely destroyed by Swedish king Gustav Vasa during the Protestant Reformation and was replaced with the royal castle of Eskilstuna House. The city's first city privileges were granted in 1659.

The Eskilstuna River and Eskilstuna Oldtown

Eskilstuna is a town in the county of Södermanland in Sweden. It is the seat of Eskilstuna Municipality.

Karl Gustavs Stad was a free town from 1771, where manufacturers and craftsmen were allowed to establish tax-free workshops and factories. The town was merged with the rest of Eskilstuna in 1879.

Eskilstuna river.jpg
The city grew enormously during the Industrial Revolution and became one of the most important industrial cities of Sweden, earning the nickname "Stålstaden" ("The City of Steel"). Aside from firearms, the city also produced cutlery, scissors, keys, machine tools and precision instruments. As a tribute to the steel industry, the figure of a steel worker is included in the city's coat of arms. Eskilstuna is sometimes called The Sheffield of Sweden. Both cities at their peak were home to numerous steel production companies.

Klosters church of Eskilstuna

For 350 years the Rademacher forges in Eskilstuna have made knives, scissors, needles, pins, locks, hinges, tools and nails. The first forges in the area stood ready in 1659 and constituted a part of the ironwork manufacturing of the city of Carl Gustaf, founded and named after king Karl X Gustav.